

MICA User Group Newsletter Issue #1

Welcome to the first issue of the MICA User Group Newsletter!

We (your MICA trainers, Andy Hunter and Becca Mickels) are starting this user group and newsletter in response to multiple comments received on MICA training evaluations over the past three years. Many of you have requested communication on updates to the MICA system, descriptions of new features, additional exercises to help you practice your skills, announcements of training opportunities, and any other new information about data that might help you perform your jobs more efficiently.

We anticipate that newsletters will be sent, at most, monthly or quarterly. If you have ideas for content, please send them to Andrew.Hunter@health.mo.gov or Becca.Mickels@health.mo.gov. We would especially like to feature stories describing your success at completing projects or obtaining grants using the MICA tools as well as interviews with public health professionals about your duties and how you use MICA to accomplish them.

Refresher Webinars

Many of our past class participants have expressed a need for periodic refreshers. We currently plan to offer live trainings at various locations next summer, but we realize that past participants may not need to sit through the same full-day training a second time. (However, you are certainly welcome to do so!) Instead, we are considering developing refresher webinars that will review some of the main points from Courses 1 and 2. We envision that these refresher sessions would last approximately one hour (or possibly somewhat longer for complicated topics like confidence intervals) and would be available at no cost. To help us determine which topics would be most useful to you, we have prepared a brief (two or three questions) survey which will allow you to choose from a list of proposed topics or submit your own ideas. The survey is located at <http://webapp03.dhss.mo.gov/snapwebhost/surveylogin.asp?k=131966300295>. Thank you for your feedback. We appreciate it and will use it to improve the services we offer.

New MICA Content Index

One of the critiques we frequently receive is that locating indicators within the MICA system is difficult. Our application developer, Dr. Bob Metzger, developed the MICA Content index, located at <http://health.mo.gov/data/mica/mica/MICAlabel.html>, to make locating indicators a little easier. Simply click on the plus sign (+) to expand each MICA topic or indicator grouping within the MICA topic. (If you click on the hyperlinked labels you will be taken to the MICA itself.) In the example below, we expanded **MICA Contents**, **Births**, and **Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Delivered in a Level 3 Facility** to see all indicators available below the drill-down hyperlink on **Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Delivered in a Level 3 Facility**. Once you click on the plus sign to expand a list, the plus sign will change to a minus sign (-). Click on the minus sign to collapse that grouping. This will allow you to search for a

particular indicator without having to create multiple tables by searching in the MICA itself. Bob is currently working on a more advanced search feature, which we will share with you as soon as it is complete.

MICA Content

Home » Data, Surveillance Systems & Statistical Reports » Community Data Profiles and/or MICA

Click on plus (+) to show next level or on minus (-) to hide that level

MICA Contents

Births

1. Birth Place: Not in a Hospital
2. Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Delivered in a Level 3 Facility
 2. Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Delivered in a Level 3 Facility
 3. Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Not Delivered in a Level 3 Facility
 4. Birth Place: Very Low Birth Weight Births Recorded in Missouri
5. Birth Spacing: Less Than 18 Months

New Bureaus

Effective September 1, the Bureau of Health Informatics was divided into two new Bureaus, the Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Bureau of Health Care Analysis and Data Dissemination. We are told that our basic functions will not change. Congratulations to Andy, who was appointed Interim Chief of the Bureau of Health Care Analysis and Data Dissemination.

MoPHA Drawing Winner

Thanks to all of you who visited our exhibit at the Missouri Public Health Association (MoPHA) Conference on September 29-30 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia.



Congratulations to Alex Denning, winner of our drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Hy-Vee. Alex is a Master of Public Health student at the University of Missouri and is interested in biostatistics and epidemiology. He is a second-year student and this summer worked at the Pettis County Health Department, where he completed a community needs assessment and various other projects for the administrator. He is currently working at the MU School of Journalism Health Communication Research Center as a Graduate Research Assistant. In this role he works with biostatistics information for health-related news releases.

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**Upcoming Events**

We will exhibit during the Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition Conference on December 2 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons. Please stop by to say hello.

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Q&A

A comment on the course evaluations asked about the availability of city-level data. MICA only contains city-level data on Independence, Joplin, and Kansas City, which have their own health departments that are independent of the county health departments. (For example, there is an

Independence City Health Department that is separate from the Jackson County Health Department.) St. Louis City, which is an independent city, is treated as a county.

However, the *Annual Vital Statistics* reports include city-level data for some indicators. These reports are located at <http://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/index.php>. City-level data are available on the following tables:

- 9 Resident Live Births by Mother's Marital Status by Race with Percentages by County and Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 10C Resident Live Births by Selected Characteristics by Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 17 Resident and Recorded Live Births, Deaths, and Natural Increase with Rates by Counties and Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 18 Resident and Recorded Live Births and Deaths by Cities with 2,500-24,999 Population: Missouri 2009
- 23A Resident Perinatal, Infant, Fetal, Neonatal, Postneonatal and Maternal Deaths by County and Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 23B White Resident Perinatal, Infant, Fetal, Neonatal, Postneonatal and Maternal Deaths by County and Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 23C Black Resident Perinatal, Infant, Fetal, Neonatal, Postneonatal and Maternal Deaths by County and Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009
- 27C Resident Deaths by Selected Causes of Death by Cities with 25,000 or More Population: Missouri 2009

If you have a question about the MICAs or Profiles, please submit it to Becca.Mickels@health.mo.gov and we may answer it in a future newsletter.

Practice Exercise

Many of you have asked for additional exercises so that you can practice the skills you learned at the MICA trainings. Here is a chance for you to do so. If you would like to check your work, a possible answer is posted on the DHSS website. A link to the answer is provided at the bottom of this section.

You have been asked to write an article about methods of cataract prevention. You decide to use the Procedures MICA to find statistics on the number of older adults who received cataract treatment. Set up your query to determine which of the following groups of older adults underwent more cataract procedures in Missouri during 2008: White Males, White Females, African-American Males, or African-American Females. What settings did you use?

Step One: Row variable _____

Step Two: Column variable _____

Step Three (Optional): Race _____, Ethnicity _____, Sex _____,
Age _____, Pay Source _____, Setting _____

Step Four: Year(s) of Interest _____

Step Five: Statewide/County/Cities _____

Step Six: Indicator variable _____
Step Seven: Statistics to be displayed _____,
Standard population _____, Confidence intervals _____
Drill-down hyperlink(s) (Optional): _____

Visit <http://health.mo.gov/data/mica/MICA/solutions.html> to check the solution.

How to Sign Up or Op Out

If you have enjoyed this newsletter, please feel free to share it with your colleagues and community partners. We encourage them to sign up for the MICA User Group by sending an e-mail to Andrew.Hunter@health.mo.gov or Becca.Mickels@health.mo.gov with the subject line MICA User Group. This will let us know to send newsletters to them directly so they do not miss any information. Also, this helps us track the types of organizations using the tools, which is one of our performance measures.

If you would like to opt out of the MICA User Group, please send an e-mail with Unsubscribe in the subject line to Becca.Mickels@health.mo.gov. PLEASE NOTE: Depending on your position title, you may still receive other types of e-mail messages from us. For example, we are requested to send training information to all LPHA Administrators, even if they have unsubscribed from the MICA User Group.

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